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Title: Need to formulate a comprehensive policy for welfare of the aged persons in the country.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Number of persons above 60 years of age has grown three times during the last sixty years. Many of them are not in the joint family set-up due to the changing scenario of the society. They are forced to live alone in separate Houses which is very dangerous. Because of professional duties, their wards stay in other towns and cities and sometimes abroad. As a result of this, aged persons are not able to get due medical attention and help. There is a need for specialized medical centres for aged persons where medically trained professionals should be made available. Government should set-up health centers meant for aged persons throughout the country. An organization should be set-up which can have dedicated and determined youth as members, and that organization can work for the welfare of these aged persons taking care of their medical and personal needs. Taking into account of the ever-changing situation and increasing population of aged people, Government should take urgent steps in this regard. Particularly, aged persons in rural areas should be taken care of. In every taluk of the country, aged persons[1] welfare homes should be set-up to take care of these people. Students and dedicated volunteers should be utilized for running these homes. Educational institutions should be encouraged to work with such homes and there should be an organizational mechanism for effective implementation of this scheme. In radio, there should be a special bulletin for ten minutes everyday, which is meant for the aged persons. There should be awareness among the people in this regard. Since FM radio stations are becoming popular nowadays, Union Government may use this medium. I urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to take an initiative for implementation of a comprehensive policy in this regard and also to allot adequate fund for the same.